



USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76)

NEWSPAPER NAME WINNERS: AS2 Michael Mack SKSN Christopher Conner DKSA Steven Haywood

July 3, 2004 Vol. 1 Issue 11

CVN 76 Participates in Summer Pulse 2004

by JO2 Paul Simonds

Staff Writer

USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) is participating in UNITAS (Spanish for unity) July 3 – 8, as part of the Navy's Summer Pulse '04 as it transits around South

America on the way to its new homeport in San Diego.

This is the first simultaneous deployment of seven aircraft carrier strike groups (CSGS) that is demonstrating the ability of the Navy to provide credible

combat power across the globe by operating in five theaters with other U.S., Allied, and coalition military forces.

Summer Pulse '04 is the Navy's first opportunity to flex its muscle and is proving it can execute the Fleet Response Plan (FRP).

FRP is about new ways of operating, training, manning and maintaining the fleet that results in increased force readiness and the ability to provide significant combat power to the President in response to a national emergency of crisis.

"Summer Pulse '04 really is all about putting strike groups wherever we think we need to put them all over the world," said Capt. James Symonds, Ronald Reagan commanding officer.

Summer Pulse 2004 is also an opportunity for the

Navy to demonstrate the ability to prepare and provide support for the strategic regional engagements and operational requirements of combat commanders.

"It's more than just putting ships to sea," said Symonds. "It's all the logistics. All these folks have been used to supporting one CSGS deploying on each coast. Now we are going to see what it's going to take for all that structure, personnel and supplies ... to support seven CSGS out at sea at the same time."

Ronald Reagan's role in Summer Pulse '04 is significant. Not only is this the ship's inaugural operational deployment, but Ronald Reagan is participating in UNITAS 2004.

UNITAS is focused on high-tech surface, air,

amphibious and under-sea naval training exercises designed to strengthen multinational coalition and force interoperability in South America.

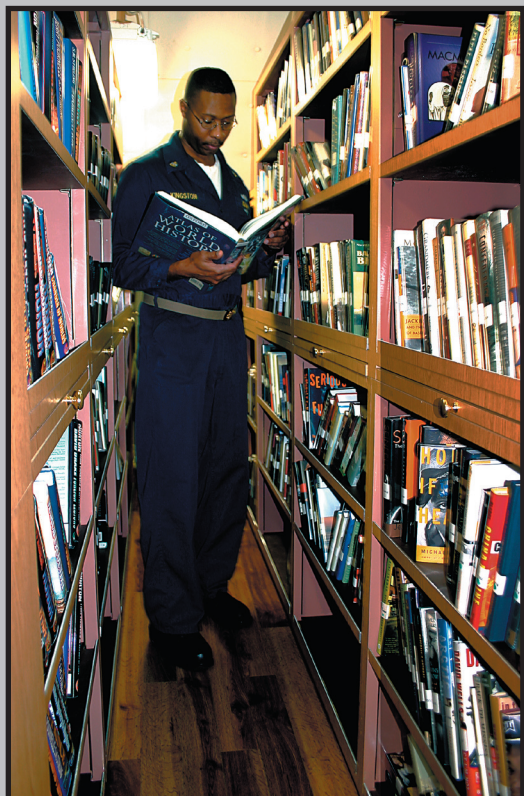
"We are going to be going against surface and sub-surface forces," said Symonds.

The Ronald Reagan Strike Group will be actively involved in UNITAS' amphibious exercises. More than 5,000 U.S. Sailors and Marines will participate in the amphibious phase, including those from the Ronald Reagan Strike Group.

"It's good training for the entire strike group to see how we are going to array our forces for defense. And of course, we are a strike group with offensive power," Symonds added.

The primary reason
Pulse ... Cont. on page 3

A Quiet Place



by IC1 Michael Helke

YNC Roy Kingston chooses a book from the ship's new "Nancy Reagan Memorial Library." The library officially opened Wednesday and is located at 03-118-10-L. Hours of operation are 0930-2130. The new library houses a theatre with a 26-person seating capacity. Movie hours are: 1000, 1400 and 1900. The library will be fitted with 24 computers for the crew to use upon arrival in San Diego. The computer room is currently being used as a study room.

Reagan Sailors Build Hope for San Diego Native American Community

by Daniel Jones

San Diego Public Affairs Center

What can we do to help? Sailors from USS Ronald Reagan's (CVN 76) beach detachment answered that question last week volunteering to help rebuild Native American homes lost during the 2003 San Diego fires.

Teaming with Habitat For Humanity and local tribes, approximately 70 Reagan Sailors donated time and energy to assist in rebuilding San Pasqual tribe homes, which burned to the ground during a fire disaster ranking among the most destructive in California history.

This summer, Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) stepped in to help

rebuild some of those homes. Sailors waiting for next month's arrival of Ronald Reagan, the Navy's newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, took a break from shore-based training to help.

HFHI is a Christian-based housing ministry striving to help eliminate poverty-level housing around the world.

With the help of volunteers like the Ronald Reagan Sailors, HFHI is moving closer towards its goal.

Since its inception in 1977, HFHI has built more than 150,000 homes in 92 countries worldwide. Mike Gehl, site supervisor for the homes being

Community ... Cont. on page 4

Main Event

Astros Spend too Much; Six Games Back

by JO2 Paul Simonds

Staff Writer

At two games above .500, and six games behind the division leading St. Louis Cardinals, the Houston Astros are the biggest disappointment in Major league baseball.

I really feel bad for the Houstonians. They have had an abundance of talent over the years, but have never won a post-season series. At this rate, 2004 will be much of the same.

The Stros picked up Roger Clemens and Andy Pettite, to go along with Roy Oswalt and Wade Miller on the pitching staff. The baseball world figured Houston was going to be a lock in the National League Central Division this year. But as the league gears up for the mid-summer classic, (the All-Star Game

in Houston) the Astros are a joke.

Sure at 40-38, the Stros aren't dreadful, but there is no excuse for a team with that much talent to be six games back at this point in the season.

Houston features future hall-of-famers at first and second base (Jeff Bagwell and Jeff Kent), all-stars scattered all over the outfield (Craig Biggio, Lance Berkman and Carlos Beltran) and one of the games alleged best pitching staffs.

So what is the problem?

The problem is ... teams need to realize they can't buy a championship. Look at the last three world champions.

The Florida Marlins were filled with "homegrown" talent. Virtually the entire line-

up was filled with guys who had come up through the minor league system (Derek Lee, Luis Castillo, Alex Gonzalez, Miguel Cabrera, Juan Pierre, Josh Beckett, Dontrelle Willis).

The 2002 Anaheim Angels were the same way. The trend holds somewhat held true with the 2001 Arizona Diamondbacks. The difference is that franchise had only been around a handful of years, but the idea of keeping a group of guys together a long time and letting them mold into a champion still held true.

Now I know a lot of people hate the dreaded Yankees, but the truth is ... they do it right. Sure they have added a lot of high-priced guys over the years, but if you really look at them, you realize they have basically built from within.

Who have been the common denominators for the Yanks over the years? Guys like Jorge Posada, Derek Jeter, Bernie Williams, Pettite and Mariano Rivera have all been there for nearly a decade. As a result they won - A LOT!

Houston has fallen into the same trap many teams, like the Los Angeles Dodgers, New York Mets, Boston Red Sox and Colorado Rockies have succumbed to.

You can't buy a championship! It takes time. It takes patience. It takes luck.

Maybe the Astros can come back in the NL Central and win the whole thing this year. But if they want to be a dynasty, they need to stop spending cash on big names and simply build from within.

Wallbangers Celebrate 30 Years Flying

VAW-117 Public Affairs

VAW-117, also known as the "Wallbangers," is currently celebrating its 30th anniversary on board USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), the Navy's newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, during its voyage around South America to its new homeport in San Diego.

Since the squadron's inception, the "Wallbangers" have been a part of eight carrier strike groups starting with their first Western Pacific Deployment (WESTPAC) on board USS Ranger (CV-61) in 1979.

This is not VAW-117's first trip around South America. In late 1990, VAW-117 packed up its gear and flew to Norfolk, Va., to board USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) for its maiden voyage around South America.

The "Wallbangers" deployed again in 1991 at the onset of "Operation Desert Storm / Desert Shield."

They also assisted in the evacuation of local citizens from the Philippines after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo during "Operation Fiery Vigil."

Throughout its history, VAW-117 has continued

to pave the way for the Hawkeye community. They performed the Operational Test Evolution for the new Mission Computer Upgrade (MCU) / Advanced Control Indicator Sets (ACIS) and took the system to sea in 2001.

They were the first in the fleet with the new system.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the "Wallbangers" were among the first aircraft to lead the strikes in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

VAW-117 joined up with USS Nimitz (CVN 68) for WESTPAC 2003. It was the squadron's longest deployment, which totaled eight months and one day.

VAW-117 flew more than 260 combat sorties in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, logged more than 1,935 flight hours and recording more than 690 carrier arrested landings.

The squadron's 30-year anniversary was marked by winning the 2003 Navy Unit Commendation 2003, Battle 'E', Safety 'S' and the Admiral Vern Clark Safety award.

30 Years ... Cont. on page 4



Commanding Officer
Capt. James Symonds

Executive Officer
Capt. Andrés Brugal

Command Master Chief
CMDM (SW/AW)
Kathy Hansen

Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Suzanna Cigna

Assistant Public Affairs Officer
JOCS (SW)
Donna Corvin

Managing Editor
JO1 Shane Montgomery

Editor
JO3 Robbie Thomas

Staff Writers
JO1(SW) Sean Linvill
JO1 (AW) Lori Sawyer
IC1 Michael Helke
PH2 Robin Ressler
JO2 Shane Tuck
JO2 Paul Simonds
AN Heather Beckham

Photographic and printing support is provided by CVN 76 Steel Horse Imaging



This newspaper is an authorized publication for military members on board USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Contents of The Great Communicator are not the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the United States Navy.

Reader's Choice... What was Your Favorite Moment in Chile?



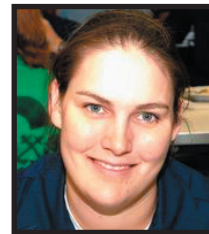
AA Joanne Rippee
"Seeing the beautiful cathedral."



PR2 Victor Canstaneda
"Every moment; just hanging out with my friends."



PN2 Jennifer Delacruz
"Going to the dance-club 'Goose.'"



MM2 Jenene Williams
"Following a dog around for an hour."



ABE1 Andre Mills
"Giving a local boy a blowpop and having him chase me down to say thank you."

Reel Time Pirates of the Caribbean

with "The Helke"

Tonight on Channel 4

Argh, hargh, hargh, me mates.

It be time for a hardy film of carsoulin' and swindlin'.

Shiver me timbers solid, oh.

Draw ye up some grog, and let me tell ye about da Pirates of the Caribbean: *The Curse of the Black Pearl*.

This swashbuckling adventure starts out with the rescue of Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley) by infamous pirate Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp).

For thanks the Elizabeth's would-be betrothed (Jack Davenport) and her father (Jonathan Pryce) throw him in prison.

He manages to escape, but is foiled by Will Turner (Orlando Bloom), the hero of our story.

Soon after ... the town



ACTING = A-
DIRECTING = B+
STORYLINE = B
CAMERA WORK = B+
OVERALL = B+

comes under attack by the pirate ship Black Pearl, Jack's old ship.

She's now being captained by a Barbary scallywag named Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush).

Barbossa kidnaps Elizabeth and makes good their escape.

Will, infatuated with Elizabeth, decides to save her.

He springs Jack to help him track the Black Pearl.

Gore Verbinski (The Ring) has directed a comic, yet chilling classic.

It is at times amusing especially with Depp's brilliant, loony portrayal.

It is also hauntingly frightening.

So... don't be walking the plank.

Tune in today, and remember "yo ho, yo ho, a pirate's life for me!"

Today's Movies

Channel 2

Bruce Almighty
Face/Off
Solaris
Raiders of the Lost Ark
Second Hand Lions
Master and Commander: Far Side of the World
The Girl Next Door
Cabin Fever

Channel 4

Down and Out in Beverly Hills
Days of Thunder
Ghost Ship
Paycheck
SWAT
National Lampoon's: Vanwild
Pirates of the Caribbean
Interview With the Vampire

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am very unhappy about having the vending machines shut down. I don't blame the XO for doing what he had to, but I can't believe my shipmates on board can't clean up after themselves. Come on folks. It's a piece of trash on the ground, in an angle iron or ladder well... pick it up. I would like to believe we are all mature enough to walk our trash to a bag. There is one in every work center not to mention the ones on the mess decks. Help everyone out folks. Did we alleviate the trash problem or just make lines to the ship's store a little longer?

— Tired of the Mess

Dear Tired of the Mess,

We sympathize with you; however we don't think the machines will be a problem. People are afraid to stand too close to The Helke, so we just send him down to the ship's store... 10 minutes tops. Seriously shipmates, enough is enough. Your mom would be so mad at you right now. Am I right or am I right?

On another note, we know there are a ton of artists out there. Even if it is a one-time shot, scan your drawing and bring it up.

If it is good, we'll let your shipmates see your talent! Bring submissions to 01-88-2-Q or call 5044 or 5042.

— The Editor

Spanish Lessons...

"¿Cuanto cuesta esa camiseta?"
"How much is that T-shirt?"

Pulse

Continued from front page

for Summer Pulse '04 is to show the Navy is prepared to enact the FRP, which is the deployment philosophy put forth by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark. FRP calls for six deployable CSGs at a moment's notice and two additional strike groups ready to augment the deployed forces.

"The Fleet Response Plan really is a different way to do business," said Symonds.

Adopting the FRP philosophy is beneficial for Ronald Reagan and the entire fleet. In the past, CSGs would deploy and then "stand down" for months at a time. As the work-up cycle moved forward, ships' crews would

have to work many extra hours to attain a "deployable" status, according to Symonds.

Under FRP, upon returning from a deployment, ships will maintain a level of readiness to answer the call of the nation.

"It level loads the work," said Symonds.

The near-simultaneous deployment of seven CSGs provides the Navy and the joint combat commanders a unique opportunity to exercise the FRP while maintaining the ability to respond to crises around the globe, enhance regional security and relationships, meet combat commanders requirements including forward presence, and demonstrate a commitment to allies and coalition partners. Summer Pulse '04 is scheduled to conclude in August.

30 Years

Continued from page two

The “Bangers” are also the CNO’s nominee for the Secretary of Defense Maintenance award.

The Wallbangers have operated for more than 26 years since their last Class ‘A’ mishap.

V A W - 1 1 7 ’ s other awards include: the “Price Fighter award,” the 1995 Battle “E,” the 1995 Grandpaw Pettibone award, the Secretary of Defense Maintenance award,

the CNO Airborne Early Warning Excellence award and the Energy Conservation award.

The “Bangers,” along with a handful of squadrons from Carrier Airwing Eleven (CVW-11), are sustaining the Navy’s Fleet Readiness Plan (the ability to deploy up to seven aircraft carrier strike groups in a moments notice) by participating in the Summer Pulse ’04 exercise.



by PHAN Kathleen Gorby

VAW-117 celebrates its thirtieth birthday on board USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). The “Wallbangers,” along with a handful of squadrons from CVW-11, are sustaining the Navy’s Fleet Readiness Plan by participating in the Summer Pulse 2004 exercise.

Community

Continued from front page

rebuild, knows how important it is to have volunteers.

“These Sailors bring a great sense of pride and teamwork to the project,” said Gehl. “When the day ends and the hammers are put down, these folks have left their mark on these buildings.”

On any other day, the Sailors who volunteered are dental technicians, hull technicians, enginemen and airmen, to name a few of the titles held by the Reagan volunteers; however, last week they all became carpenters.

With only five days on the job site, the Sailors had to learn the art of construction work quickly. It took AN Christian Bowman only one day to learn how to build frames for walls.

“I’ve never done anything like this,” said Bowman. “I was willing to learn, and now I feel like I am making a difference. The people who live here lost their homes, and I am excited to help them rebuild.”

The Sailors arrived early in the morning with nothing more than a willingness to learn. By noon, they were hammering nails and sawing through lumber like seasoned builders.

At lunchtime the Sailors, who didn’t know each other very well before they teamed up, were laughing and relaxing like old friends.

“Working with this team on a project like this builds friendship,” said MM3 Class Samuel Gauna. “It also gives you 100 percent satisfaction and a feeling that

you can’t describe ... it just feels really good.”

While the Navy is always prepared to support freedom and democracy around the world, Sailors have a history of helping the San Diego community in times of need.

DT2 Summer Casper, a Ronald Reagan Sailor volunteering with this project, has also volunteered to tutor local San Diego children. She recently participated in the San Diego Naval Bases’ “Main Street Clean-Up.” Casper believes volunteering

helps Sailors become more familiar with the communities that support them.

“Participating in a project like this is very important because it allows Sailors to give something back,” said Casper. “Community relations projects are a win-win situation for everyone.”

Many community relations projects take a lot of time and effort. With a project of this scale, it takes dedicated and caring volunteers like Ronald Reagan’s Sailors to get the job done.

June 30

**Sailor of the Day
MMFN Matthew
Sims**



Dept: Eng A

**Job Title: Shift
Supervisor**

**Where are you from?
Ogden, Utah**

**Why did you join the
Navy?**

**To pay for college
and for a new**

experience

**What is your
favorite
place to visit?**

Home

**Who do you hold
responsible
for your success?**

**My grandparents
adversity lies**

What inspires you?

My father

**What did you do
before you joined
the Navy.**

Construction

**What’s your favorite
quote?**

**“If it’s broke I’ll
fix it.”**

**What piece of advice
would you pass on
to others?**

**Work smarter not
harder.**

July 1

**Sailor of the Day
IT2 Donshawn
Timothy**



Dept: CS2/CSD

**Where are you from?
Houston, Texas**

**Why did you join the
Navy?**

To see the world

**Your favorite place to
visit?**

Louisiana, “I love the

food.”

Your favorite movie?

Waiting to exhale

Your favorite song?

“Ain’t no way”

by Areth Franklin

What inspires you?

The Bible

**What did you do
before you joined the**

Navy?

**Attended high
school and played
basketball**

**What piece of advice
would you pass on to
others?**

Believe in yourself

**What is your favorite
quote?**

Live life to the fullest

**Who do you hold
responsible
for your success?**

God and my parents.